

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An automatic method for providing locales on a computer system comprising
2 the following steps:
 - 3 a. establishing a set of services, said set of services specifying services
4 required for said locale;
 - 5 b. storing with each of said set of services an attribute for identifying
6 characteristics of said each of said set of services, said attribute
7 including:
 - 8 i a name which identifies a type of service;
 - 9 ii. a value which uniquely identifies said each services among
10 other services having said name;
 - 11 c. defining a first locale which specifies a first set of attributes of a first
12 set of said services; and
 - 13 d. loading said first locale by retrieving said first set of services by said
14 first set of attributes.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said establishing of said first set of services
2 includes building a structure which references each of said first set of
3 services.

- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said retrieving includes maintaining a
2 reference to one of said services in said structure and iterating through said
3 structure in order to retrieve a subsequent one of said services.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said services include text services.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said services include input services.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said services include formatting services.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said services include presentation services.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said defining of said first locale includes
2 storing a locale file on a non-volatile medium coupled to said computer
3 system.
- 1 9. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of generating a locale
2 database from said first locale file.
- 1 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of scanning said database
2 in order to create a reference to certain of said services in order to retrieve
3 said first set of services.

- 1 11. An automatic method for providing services on a computer system
2 comprising the following steps:
 - 3 a. establishing a set of services providing different functionality for said
4 computer system;
 - 5 b. storing with each of said set of services an attribute for identifying
6 characteristics of the function of each of said set of services; and
 - 7 c. retrieving said first set of services by said first set of attributes
8 irrespective of any locales.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein said establishing of said first set of services
2 includes building a structure which references each of said first set of
3 services.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said retrieving includes maintaining a
2 reference to one of said services in said structure and iterating through said
3 structure in order to retrieve a subsequent one of said services.
- 1 14. The method of claim 11 wherein said services include text services.
- 1 15. The method of claim 11 wherein said services include input services.
- 1 16. The method of claim 11 wherein said services include formatting services.

1 17. The method of claim 11 wherein said services include presentation services.

1 18. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of scanning said
2 database in order to create a reference to certain of said services in order to
3 retrieve said first set of services.

1 19. An apparatus for providing services on a computer system comprising:
2 a. first means for establishing a set of services providing different
3 functionality for said computer system;
4 b. second means for storing with each of said set of services an attribute
5 for identifying characteristics of the function of each of said set of
6 services; and
7 c. third means for retrieving said first set of services by said first set of
8 attributes irrespective of any locales.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said establishing of said first set of
2 services includes building a structure which references each of said first set
3 of services.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said retrieving includes maintaining a
2 reference to one of said services in said structure and iterating through said
3 structure in order to retrieve a subsequent one of said services.

- 1 22. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said services include text services.
- 1 23. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said services include input services.
- 1 24. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said services include formatting services.
- 1 25. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said services include presentation
2 services.
- 1 26. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said means for retrieving includes a
2 means for scanning said database in order to create a reference to certain of
3 said services in order to retrieve said first set of services.